WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A system for notifying a user of a loss of wireless communication, the system comprising:

    a host device;

    at least one peripheral device connected to the host device by a wireless connection, the at least one peripheral device being capable of sending a first signal to the host device, and the host device being capable of sending a second signal to the at least one peripheral device in response to, and verifying receipt by the host device of, the first signal sent by the at least one peripheral device; and

    an alarm responsive to a determination that the second signal has not been received by the at least one peripheral device, the alarm notifying the user of the loss of wireless connection between the host device and the at least one peripheral device.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the host device is a host computer and the at least one peripheral device is a computer keyboard.

3.   The system of claim 2 wherein the keyboard comprises an input device through which multiple peripheral devices may communicate with the host computer.

4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the wireless connection is an IR connection.

5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the wireless connection is an RF connection.

6.   The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one peripheral device is a remote control device.

7.   The system of claim 1 wherein the alarm is an audible alarm.

8.   The system of claim 7 wherein the audible alarm comprises a series of beeps.

9.   The system of claim 8 wherein the series of beeps increases in volume over time, until the alarm is shut off by the user.

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10.   The system of claim 1 wherein the alarm comprises a vibrating alarm.

11.   The system of claim 1 wherein:

the at least one peripheral device comprises a first peripheral device and at

10   least one additional peripheral device; and

the host device is capable of identifying and distinguishing between the first peripheral device and the at least one additional peripheral device.

12.   The system of claim 11 wherein the alarm comprises a first alarm specific to

15   the first peripheral device and a second alarm specific to the at least one additional peripheral device.

13.   A computer based method for wireless communication between a host computer and a first peripheral device, said host computer including a receiver for

20   receiving data in the form of signals from said first peripheral device and said first peripheral device including a receiver for receiving data in the form of signals from said host computer, the method comprising:

sending a first signal from the first peripheral device to the host computer, wherein the host computer recognizes the first peripheral as the source of said first

25   signal;

sending a second signal from the host computer to the first peripheral device confirming the receipt of the first signal by the host computer within a preselected time period following transmission thereof;
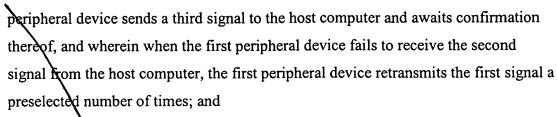
wherein when said first peripheral device recognizes the second signal from

30   the host computer confirming receipt of the first signal by the host, the first

peripheral device sends a third signal to the host computer and awaits confirmation thereof, and wherein when the first peripheral device fails to receive the second signal from the host computer, the first peripheral device retransmits the first signal a preselected number of times; and

5   initiating an alarm signal notifying a user that the communication between the host computer and the first peripheral has been lost after the first peripheral has sent the first signal a preselected number of times with no confirmation thereof.

14.   The method of claim 13 wherein the first and second signals are
10 electromagnetic signals.

15.   A method for notifying a user of a loss of wireless communication between a host device and at least one peripheral device, the method comprising:

detecting a loss of wireless communication between a host device and the at
15 least one peripheral device;

signaling software controlling a transceiver that the loss of communication has been detected; and

transmitting a message to alert the user of the loss of wireless communication.
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16.   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

detecting a loss of wireless communication between a host device and at least one peripheral device;

25   signaling software controlling a transceiver that the loss of communication has been detected; and

transmitting a message concerning the loss of communication.